THE NATIONAL LINCOLN MONUMENT.

BY HENRY W. BELLOWS.

It is not yet very generally known in the country at large, that an enterprise, commemorating the labors, instrumentalities, sacrifices, and triumphs of the War, is in full progress at the Capitol. "The National Lincoln Monument Association" is a voluntary body of private citizens, who have undertaken to embody and consummate the assumed wishes of the people of America, by collecting the means for erecting a vast monument in eternal memory of Abraham Lincoln and his chief supporters, — not so much in their individual characters, as in their providential relations to the people of the United States, who in a very peculiar sense were their own agents in carrying through the emancipation of the slave, and in maintaining the coherency of the Union.

Nobody can deny the fitness and importance of such a monument. It is essential to the gratitude, pride, and sorrow of the American people. Any neglect to build it would be a new proof of what already has too many testimonies in its favor, — the alleged ingratitude of republics. It ought, too, to be built while the consciousness of the political, military, and philanthropic achievements of the war is fresh and infallible, so that it shall be the honest expression of the very people who quenched the rebellion, and who know how and by what agencies and agents they did it! History, two or three centuries hence, will come in with a later verdict, in which the whole perspective of the judgments and feelings of our generation may be changed, and Art, in its then more fully developed maturity, and under those necessary conditions of the impulse furnished by a revered past and a half-mythological retrospect, will give us its poetic and symbolic interpretations of the impulses, motives, deeds, and heroes, sages, and martyrs of America's great epic age. Doubtless, it is too early now for poetry, painting, and sculpture to make the best use of the materials which the Civil War has so properly furnished for the muses of the future. Two hundred, perhaps five hundred years, must ripen the hard seed of cannon ball and bullets, though enriched with the blood and bones of a half million martyrs, into the mellow harvest of the arts. We can expect little of really symbolic beauty and æsthetic perfectness in the products of the immediate participants or spectators of the great war. But the Art of our own day has its duties, and the knowledge and absolute consciousness of the generation which has accomplished and witnessed the events of the momentous era have their advantages and obligations. Contemporary history is already doing fully and faithfully its peculiar work. Photography — and especially Mr. Brady's truly wonderful and complete collection of portraits and war-scenes, which we trust the Nation will not be so blind as to allow to remain private property, subject to casualties, fire, and dispersion — has done its important part. Art, whether on canvas or in clay, has done something, and promised more. Mr. John Rogers's statuette groups of figures, illustrative of most of the phases of the war, are probably the best contribution which plastic art has yet offered. They are genuine, historic, literal, yet with enough humor, pathos, and sentiment to raise them above the prosaic level, and supply what might else decay with a preserving enamel.

In respect of historic monuments, we have heard much promise, but seen little performance. It appeared at the time of Mr. Lincoln's death, as if the country, in all its great cities and towns, was soon to bristle with shafts to his precious memory. Certainly, twenty different projects must have attained the dignity of announcement under auspicious names. But monuments in marble and bronze are costly, and require much time for their accomplishment. It is easier to plan and get public approval for fifty monuments to a martyr than to collect the hundred thousand, or half million dollars essential to the actual erection of one. It is specially difficult in a country, where governments can do so little, to achieve these artistic results. For what is everybody's business is nobody's business, and what everybody wishes a little, needs for its accomplishment the organizing power and concentrating influence of a few who wish it with all their hearts. The only monuments of the war that have sprung up spontaneously (and none are more honorable and to be approved), are the town or county, or State monuments in honor of their own dead, which must be numbered by some hundreds. It would be interesting to see a list of them, with the design and cost of each. They would be found generally modest and without architectural ambition, — historic memorials which owe their value to the local affection, gratitude, and admiration bestowed on the names sculptured upon their sides, and not to the intrinsic beauty of their design. Like the simple monument at Lexington, Mass., to which no grandeur or costliness could give increased interest, these local memorials of the brave men who died for their country will have a steady and permanent increase of interest and influence, and a valuation wholly independent of their merit as works of art.

Those who have watched the slow and mortifying progress of the National Monument to Washington at the Capitol, will not have very sanguine hopes of the immediate completion of such a gigantic work as Mr. Clark Mills has projected. And yet it appears to have more elements of success in it than any other before the country. Having been adopted by the National Lincoln Monument Association, with Senator Harlan, of Iowa, at the head of it; Hon. John F. Driggs, of Michigan, for Vice-President; Hon. J. M. Edmunds, of Michigan, — so well known as Commissioner of Public Lands, — as Secretary; and the incorruptible and energetic Gen. Spinner, of New York, for Treasurer, it seems to have a determined, resolute set of officers, around which the patriotism of the country may crystallize. It will be observed that the Western element predominates in the management. And this is, perhaps, the best augury of its success. The West has, for the first time, fairly taken possession of the National Capitol. The President and Vice-President, the General-in-chief, the Secretary of the Interior, the late Secretary of War, and the Chief Justice, are Western men. Probably more visitors from the West flocked into Washington, Inauguration week, than from any other section of the country. The West is to make itself felt in manners, policies, and impulses, in society and in religion, during this administration, as it made itself felt in the field during Mr. Lincoln's term.

A stronger Americanism is, for good or for ill, to develop itself; more Yankee self-assertion; less deference to the feelings and tastes of the fastidious at home or abroad. The National Lincoln Monument Association reckons safely on this new manifestation. There is a fresher, more hearty, and demonstrative patriotism at the West; a finer pride in the country, and a

bolder confidence in its future. Moreover, things go there more by the aid of the masses, and less by the help of a few generous and leading citizens. General Spinner is daily receiving from various parts of the country, we learn, small contributions from twenty-five cents up to a hundred dollars. This is the true popular support, and it comes most largely from the West. If the people can only feel that this is *their* monument to Lincoln and those who best supported the war, it will be sure to succeed.

The monument was designed and will be executed by Clark Mills. It is to be seventy feet in height, triangular, with truncated angles. At the base, six equestrian bronze statues of the great generals; on the second story, grouped about the middle member of the monument, twenty-one colossal bronze statues of the chief statesmen, philanthropists, or civilians connected with the war and contributing to its success; on the top a statue larger than life of Mr. Lincoln, seated and signing the Emancipation Proclamation.

Three groups of allegorical figures, representing the Establishment, Progress, and Abolition of Slavery, and three figures representing Time, Liberty, and Justice, will adorn parts of the monument. The most momentous events in the war — the firing on Fort Sumter, the surrender of the Confederate Armies, the two Houses of Congress voting on the great acts of the Amendment of the Constitution, abolishing slavery and establishing equal rights — will be represented in *basso relievo*.

It may well be asked, how is this stupendous and costly work to be consummated? In the first place, estimating the material and the labor as about equal to each other, and each at about four hundred thousand dollars, Congress has unanimously voted the free use of enough captured cannon to cover all the cost of the material. There remain to be raised the four hundred thousand dollars for the structure. Of this amount three quarters is expected to flow in from the general public; and judging by the present rate of contribution, it will come in fast enough to keep the monument in rapid progress. The other quarter is expected from the constituents of the representative men, whom the committee select for the honor of a place among the portrait statues. There can be no doubt that every individual who has a real claim to such a distinction will have personal supporters, who will think it a privilege to contribute to the fund, specially reserved for each individual statue. Who can doubt that Mr. Stanton's friends will be glad to testify their gratitude to his extraordinary services as a great War-Minister, by special contributions? Mr. Seward, who saved us from foreign intervention and kept peace with all other nations during that critical time, is sure to have long-headed, candid, and able friends enough to see to it that money is not wanting to put his statue in the monument, and so with twenty other representative men, without whose labors the war might have had a different termination. Certainly there is something not wholly delicate in the way in which the committee by its energetic agent, has approached the gentlemen, thus far honored with the suffrages of the committee; even soliciting their own coöperation, to the extent at least of naming the persons likely to be most interested in their honor and fame. But this is one of the vulgarities inherent in republics. Courts and kingdoms can be supremely well-mannered; for, like hosts inviting guests to their own table, they have all the arrangements in their own hands. When the public is host, and that public has to act by committee and to call abroad for the means of exercising its hospitality, it is not likely

to be very nice. We can only sincerely hope that the defects in the manner of pushing this enterprise may not be suffered to defeat it. However unworthy individual men, already selected to represent great interests and efforts connected with the war, may be of the distinction of being put in everlasting bronze about Abraham Lincoln's statue, there can be no doubt of the general claim of the enterprise to respect and confidence, or of the general wisdom of the committee who have the work in charge.

We are aware that it is the fashion of the more learned artists, to depreciate Mr. Clark Mills and his competency to the task confided to him. Mr. Mills is a man of self-education, who has forced his way from the plasterer's trade up to the artist's vocation. He has colossal enterprise, self-confidence, and swiftness of execution. It is easier to laugh at his works than to excel them. At any rate, he has won the confidence of the National Committee; the work is in his hands, and with a thousand defects of detail, we expect a result, grand and majestic, with something of the vastness and roughness of this stage of the popular taste, but at least an honest expression of American largeness of feeling and grandeur of purpose.

THE ECUMENICAL COUNCIL.

BY J. B. TORRICELLI,

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NOTHING is more amusing than to read what is published in our newspapers and periodicals on the approaching Ecumenical Council. No sooner had the letters proclaiming and summoning it been issued, than editors and correspondents were busily at work instructing the public about everything concerning Ecumenical Councils in general, and the coming one in particular. Of the latter, especially, they told us beforehand what it was going to do or to decide, and some of them even ventured to volunteer their advice on the best manner of proceeding, or the propriety of discussing certain points. It must be confessed that the writers have not always seemed to be themselves particularly well acquainted with the subject, and in many cases the views expressed as well as the statements given did more honor to their ingenuity and guessing faculties, than to either their learning or good sense. The Roman correspondent of a New York paper, for an instance, having heard that the right of bishops *in partibus infidelium* to a seat was under discussion, wrote that a doubt about their right had been raised in order to keep out those who are not sufficiently enslaved to the will of the Pope. Now, the fact is that these bishops are precisely the men who have the least power of withstanding or controlling the authority of the Pontiff, and the greatest interest in procuring his favor. Being the bishops of sees occupied by heretics or no longer in existence, many of them reside in Rome, where they fill important, if not very lucrative offices, and almost all are holding employments which they know to be exclusively in the gift of the Pope himself. Only a singular logic can transform them into opponents.

This mania for writing and speculating about the purpose and the proceedings of the future council is, however, an indication of the interest which